In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please cancel claims 17-62, 64-80, 83 and 85-102 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1.   (Currently amended) A method for reducing the level of Aβ secreted from a brain cell and/or the level of cholesterol efflux from a brain cell, comprising

        contacting a mammalian brain cell with an agent that reduces expression or activity of a liver X receptor (LXR) protein and/or an ABCA1 ATP-binding cassette protein.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is an agent that reduces LXR protein activity and/or ABCA1 protein activity.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the agent binds to the LXR protein and/or the ABCA1 protein.

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the agent is an antibody or an antibody fragment containing an antigen binding domain that binds to the LXR protein and/or the ABCA1 protein.

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is an antagonist of LXR function and/or ABCA1 function.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the LXR antagonist is geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate (GGPP).

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is an agent that reduces LXR protein expression and/or ABCA1 protein expression.

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8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is a molecule that induces RNA inhibition (RNAi).

9.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is an antisense oligonucleotide.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent reduces oxysterol and/or retinoic acid levels in the brain cell.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the agent reduces oxysterol levels is a statin compound.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the agent that reduces oxysterol levels is an inhibitor of a cytochrome P450 enzyme that generates oxysterols.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the cytochrome P450 enzyme is CYP46 that makes 24-hydroxycholesterol.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is PPARγ modulator.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said contacting occurs in vitro.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the brain cell is a neuron or glial cell.

17.-62. (Canceled)

63.   (Original) A method for reducing the rate of onset or the severity of Alzheimer's disease in a subject, comprising

        administering to the subject an effective amount of one or more agents selected from the group consisting of: agents that decrease LXR expression or activity; and agents that decrease ABCA1 expression or activity.

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81.   (Original) The method of claim 63, wherein the brain cell is a neuron or glial cell.

82.   (Original) The method of claim 63, wherein the subject is a human.

83.   (Canceled)

84.   (Currently amended) A composition for reducing Aβ secretion from a brain cell and/or the level of cholesterol efflux from a brain cell, comprising

    one or more agents that reduce LXR activity or expression and/or one or more agents that reduce ABCA1 activity or expression.

85.-102.